

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraph [00037] with the following amended paragraph:

[00037] Complying with the structural particularities of the shell and tube configuration heat exchanger, each baffle 32 terminates at a radial distance from an inside wall 62 of the shell 34 (FIG. 2). Conventionally, a baffle plate has a peripheral edge conforming to a circular arch of the shell. Positioning the circular baffles at the angle λ would necessarily provide a non-uniform clearance between the circular inside wall 62 of the shell and the outer peripheral edge of the baffle, if the latter was shaped complementary to the inside wall 62. Hence, the velocity of the cross flow through the non-uniform clearance would be non-uniform as well. To remedy it, the inventive baffles 32, as shown in FIGS. 2, 4 and 5, each have the outer peripheral edge 46 shaped as a segment of the elliptical surface, which, when the baffles 32 are positioned at the angle λ , are uniformly spaced from the inside wall 62 of the shell.